

the 1917 N.A.A.C.P. Spingarn Achievement Medal, and honorary Doctorate of Music from Howard University and Atlanta University in 1920. In addition, Mr. Burleigh mentored Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Roland Hayes and Enrico Caruso who would go on to make their own exciting contributions to our nation's musical story.

Mr. Burleigh's legacy of social justice lives on through The Harry T. Burleigh Society. Formed in 2017, the society continues Burleigh's important legacy of disrupting boundaries and challenging social norms to address issues of our time. The Center for Peace, Equity & Justice at Friends Seminary School in New York City, coordinated an education/postcard campaign that was sent to Community Board Six in Manhattan, further highlighting his importance in American social justice to our beloved city.

The co-naming on September 12, 2021 at the South East corner of 16th Street and Third Avenue, Harry T. Burleigh Place, stands now as a testament to his important work as a baritone soloist, choral director, music arranger, editor, mentor, and a New York Community leader.

Harry Burleigh contributed so much to New York and the world, adding his sonorous and unique brand of spiritual signing to our ever-growing chorus of American culture. I am pleased to add my own voice to that chorus today in recognition and remembrance of this great man.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE PARTNERSHIP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (PDCG)

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of The Partnership of Douglas County Governments (PDCG). The PDCG consists of nine local government entities working collaboratively for the greater good of Douglas County's 380,000 residents on impactful issues, projects, and programs.

During the last 20 years, through their collective allegiance to a single mission, the group has focused on creating better communities for their constituents. Since its inception, PDCG accomplishments have included: the Housing Partnership and the Youth Initiative; the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative; collaborative emergency management and public safety; transportation improvements; open space, parks, trails, and recreation initiatives; health and human services programs; as well as specific public health efforts, such as their 18-month COVID-19 Community Response.

In 2017, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) nominated PDCG for both the Strategic Leadership & Governance Award and the Community Partnership Award. PDCG also works together to strengthen community bonds and protect its citizens. It is a privilege to have such an organization in Colorado's Fourth District.

The dedicated members of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments serve our community in countless ways every day. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize their hard work and determination.

HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2793, the "Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022." The Highlands Conservation Act, a bipartisan land conservation program funded through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), protects critical conservation areas in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. The Highlands is a nationally significant landscape that yields benefits and resources to more than 11 million Americans.

A boon to our agriculture and tourism economy, the bill authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Forest Service to work together to help the Highland states, local governments, nonprofits and private forest and farm landowners to conserve the land and natural resources of the Highlands region, helping to lower costs for local farmers and preserve open spaces.

Since 2007, \$70 million in funding has been awarded through the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program to the four States, including \$20 million to New York. The program has helped preserve nearly 11,000 acres in the Highlands region, including over 4,000 in the state of New York alone.

This bill will improve upon the already popular land conservation partnership projects made possible by the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program. In consultation with conservation groups and the FWS, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act:

Reauthorizes this important program through 2028 with \$20 million in annual funding.

Authorizes set-aside funding for the FWS to administer the program in a manner consistent with appropriations and other administered FWS programs.

Includes a process in which states can petition for new areas to be included in the Highlands region, thus allowing for expansion of the eligible areas.

Provides states with more complete information of what areas are ecologically connected.

Allows the petition process to be administered on a rolling basis to eliminate possible bottlenecks.

Gives FWS approval authority in the petition process, to remain consistent with how the program is currently administered.

Allows the FWS to modernize the science of conservation resource values in the region.

Responsible conservation is important for maintaining this country's beautiful lands. Mr. Speaker, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022 achieves such ends, so I am proud to support this significant piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to as well.

RECOGNIZING JEAN HAMIL, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Hamil for her position as National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary. Jean Hamil has had a rewarding career in serving the Auxiliary in a plethora of capacities and her work has impacted veterans across the United States, including those veterans who are a part of our very own community in Buffalo.

Jean Hamil's father, George W. Nunnery, is a Korean War Veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1973. Her father's service allowed her to become a Life Member of the East Seminole County Auxiliary 10139.

In addition to working as the Auxiliary, District and Department President, Jean Hamil has worked on the national level, serving as a National District Council Member and the National Director of the Membership Program. She is also a life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary, which works to serve struggling families.

In addition to being National President of the VFW Auxiliary, Jean Hamil is employed by the Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Incorporation as a Manager.

By combining her lifelong passion of supporting our veterans, with her hobby and love of quilting, Jean Hamil formed a small group called the "Quilting Angels." The group creates quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, Quilts of Valor-Orange and Seminole counties, as well as for children who are located at the Safe House center and seniors in Seminole County.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the hard work of Jean Hamil. Her hard work and dedication to our veterans throughout her rich career is something to truly admire, and something to continue to be grateful for as she continues her service as the National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AND SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABORATORIES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic partnership between Washington State University (WSU) and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL).

On Monday, April 18, 2022, Washington State University announced a gift of \$20 million from Dr. and Mrs. Ed Schweitzer and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories. This is